

SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence

ER 82-13572

Washington, D.C. 20505

20 December 1982

The Honorable William P. Clark
 Assistant to the President for
 National Security Affairs
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bill,

I have an idea which strikes me as a good one and one which may appeal to you. It is that you consider Dr. Robert Byrnes of Indiana University as a candidate to succeed Dick Pipes as the Soviet expert on your staff. I don't know whether Byrnes would be interested, but I'm quite sure that his qualifications, orientation and preparation for such a task are outstanding.

I had him out to lunch today along with Dave Abshire to be briefed on the Soviet project on which some 30-odd of the outstanding Soviet scholars in the world have been working over the last 18 months under Dr. Byrnes' direction. It seems like an outstanding piece of work, almost certainly by far the finest private sector estimate on the Soviet Union and where it stands for at least a decade. I judge this on the quality of the participants and a description I received today on the conclusions to which it arrives, as well as the depth and the range of aspects of Soviet life which have been treated.

I suggest that you peruse the attached sheets which summarize the project and list the names and affiliations of those responsible for this work.

Yours,

Bill
 William J. Casey

Enclosure

Prepared by DCI

Orig w/Atch - Addressee
 1 " - O/DCI
 1 " - DDCI
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